

Answer on Question #43350, Physics, Atomic Physics

Calculate the minimum energy of a gamma(?) photon in MeV which can produce one electron-positron pair [rest mass of an electron is $9.1 \cdot 10^{-31}$ kg].

Solution

Minimum energy must exceed rest mass of pair, that is two mass of electrons ($m_e = 0.511 \text{ MeV}$). Hence

$$E_{min} = 2m_e c^2 = 2 \cdot 0.511 = 1.022 \text{ MeV}$$